

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:SJHAMRICK:DJW

APPROVED BY AF/C - HERMAN J. COHEN

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R 101602Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

INFO AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, EMIN, CG, US

SUBJECT: GECAMINES APPROACH TO BRUEAU OF RECLAMATION

1. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION OFFICE IN DENVER COLORADO WAS CONTACTED JANUARY 7-8 BY THREE-MAN DELEGATION FROM GECAMINES WHO WERE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING BUREAU'S ASSISTANCE IN ASSESSING EXTENT OF DAMAGE DONE TO GECAMINES DELCOMMUNE DAM LOCATED ON LUALABA RIVER 250 MILES NORTH OF LUBUMBASHI. THREE CRACKS HAVE APPEARED IN 240-FT HIGH STRUCTURE AND GECAMINES IS SEEKING EXPERT ADVICE. DELEGATION LED BY ROBT KREM, GECAMINES DIRECTOR OF MINING AND METALURGY, AND ALSO INCLUDED GECAMINES EMPLOYEES RUDOLPH KVAPIL AND JACQUES PONCELOT.

2. DURING DENVER VISIT, GECAMINES TEAMS ALSO CALLED ON STERNS-ROGERS ENGINEERING FIRM SOLICITING LATTER'S HELP IN REPAIR OF DAMAGED FOUNDATIONS TO GECAMINES GRINDING MILLS. ALSO HOPED TO INTEREST STERNS-ROGERS IN SUBMITTING BID FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 50 MILLION DOLLARS CONCENTRATOR.

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3. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION INTERESTED IN ASSISTING GECAMINES WITH DAM SURVEY BUT SINCE BUREAU CONTRACT FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INGA-SHABA APPLIES ONLY TO SERVICES PROVIDED SHEL, SEPARATE ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR GECAMINES. BUREAU HAS SUGGESTED TO GECAMINES TEAM THAT FORMAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE BE MADE TO EMBASSY OR CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI. GECAMINES TEAM AGREED AND WILL MAKE REQUEST UPON RETURN TO ZAIRE. IN MEANTIME, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION MAY ROUTE ITS CHIEF DESIGN ENGINEER DR. JACK HILF THROUGH LUBUMBASHI ON HIS WAY BACK TO US FROM FAR EAST ON OR ABOUT FEB 12 TO LOOK AT DAMAGED DAM.

4. LUBUMBASHI SHOULD CONTACT KREM AT GECAMINES UPON HIS RETURN FOR DETAILS. KISSINGER

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